

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Image reader which comprises:

- a lighting part having a fluorescent lamp which produces pulse emission by dielectric barrier discharge, and an inverter circuit which feeds the fluorescent lamp;
- a CCD line sensor which continuously receives reflection light reflected by a manuscript and emitted by the fluorescent lamp, time-divided; and
- a controller which resets a divided image which is recognized by the CCD line sensor and which controls the timing of the start of recognition of a next divided image and moreover sends signals about this timing to the lighting part;

wherein the controller, within an image recognition period in which the CCD line sensor recognizes a divided image of the manuscript, sends a flashing signal to the inverter which commands pulse emission of the fluorescent lamp with a frequency which ~~directly corresponds to~~ is the same as the frequency of the flashing signal in order to keep luminous quantities of the fluorescent lamp at a given value.

2. (Original) Image reader as claimed in claim 1, wherein the frequency of the flashing signal is controllable as a light control of the fluorescent lamp.